1/6/86

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A NEWS SUMMARY
FOR HISPANICS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
20210

Week of January 6, 1986

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OVERCOME EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Week of January 6, 1985

LABOR DEPARTMENT BEGINS FOURTH YEAR
WITH 'ADOPTED' HIGH SCHOOL IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO -- For the fourth year, the Chicago Regional offices of the U.S. Department of Labor will be involved in the President's Adopt-A-School program when it sends out speakers to give a series of lectures to students at Kelly High School, which has a 40 percent Hispanic enrollment.

"The Adopt-A-School program follows the volunteer principles set by the President to have corporations and government agencies assist the community as much as possible," said Oscar Gottardi, an equal opportunity (employment) specialist for the Chicago Office of Civil Rights of the Labor Department.

According to Gottardi, this year's program will consist of 20 weekly sessions, each with a 30 minute lecture by a Department of Labor employee, followed by a question and answer period.

The lectures are intended to inform the students about Labor Department agencies and the services they provide the public. Lectures will also give students a brief introduction to the working world and opportunities available to them.

"The goal of these lectures," said Gottardi, this year's coordinator for the program, "is to teach high school students what is available to them in the world around them. By informing these young people of these Labor Department services you are expanding their horizons."

Gottardi said students will get firsthand information on job training programs, the Job and Unemployment Insurance services, safety and health standards in the workplace, apprenticeship opportunities, and Women's Bureau programs.

One of the first to make a presentation this year was Nancy Aviles, a full-time college student employed by the Labor Department. Aviles told how her work experiences and college education have helped her.

"I also tried to convey to them that, although it does not seem important to them right now, every job experience is valuable and will benefit them in their future," Aviles said.

Kelly High School Principal, Stanley Ptak said. "Through this program the students get the opportunity to meet adults in the working world and get a point of view they ordinarily would not get through other channels."

Past Labor Department activities at Kelly High have included students conducting a practice Consumer Price Index Survey in their community and making an Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) inspection of their homes.

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Week of January 6, 1986

HERNANDEZ HELPS HISPANICS
OVERCOME EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

KANSAS CITY -- When people look for jobs in the federal government, they often are overwhelmed by the array of forms and procedures.

To help Latino jobseekers become acquainted with employment opportunities, and how to get them, "we have been going to the Hispanic community," says the U.S. Labor Department's Asencion Hernandez.

Hernandez, Hispanic program manager for the department's Kansas City regional office, says workshop are a key part of his agency's outreach effort in the Hispanic community.

"We work closely with Hispanic community service organizations to help assure we reach interested youth and adults," he says.

The workshops offer Hernandez and other Labor Department staff a chance to explain the role and responsibilities of the department, information on job opportunities and how to apply for them.

"We've been successful," says Hernandez, "in getting some of the workshop participants to follow-up in their job search. They have crossed the doors of the Office of Personnel Management, and taken the steps needed to get placed on registers." He emphasizes that getting on the OPM registers is "crucial" in the federal job-seeking process.

Hernandez is a member of the Kansas City regional council of Hispanic Employment Program (HEP) managers. The council meetings give him an opportunity to share with colleagues in other agencies information on job opportunities and to get names of job seekers, he says.

Hernandez provides leadership in developing and conducting varied activities during National Hispanic Heritage week, held annually around mid-September. The week's program highlights Hispanic heritage and culture and includes "sensitivity training," to promote the Hispanic program's objective -- to increase Hispanic employment in the department.

Hernandez joined the Labor Department in 1978. He is a manpower development specialist with the Work Incentive (WIN) program of the Employment and Training Administration.

He received his bachelor of arts degree in education from Washburn University in Topeka, his hometown. He received his master of arts degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

He is president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) chapter in Topeka, and a member of the National Association of Bilingual Educators.

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Week of January 6, 1986

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Workers eligible for trade adjustment assistance may receive a relocation allowance to help them move their families and household goods to their new area of employment, plus a lump sum payment -- not to exceed $600 -- to help them get settled. Workers may be paid 90 percent of their moving expenses, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

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The Trade Adjustment Assistance program provides cash benefits called trade readjustment allowances, employability services, training, and job search and relocation allowances to workers displaced from their jobs because of increased foreign imports, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics uses a scientific sample of homes, designed and selected by the Census Bureau, to prepare its monthly Employment Situation report, according to a Labor Department fact sheet.

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Division of Cooperative Labor-Management Programs works with national unions, trade asspciations, productivity and quality of work life centers, and other organizations and government agencies in promoting joint labor-management solutions to workplace problems.

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TO LIST OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Week of January 13, 1986

HISPANIC UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UNCHANGED IN DECEMBER, BLS REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- The unemployment rate for Hispanic workers was 10.4 percent in December, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The November jobless rate for Hispanics was 10.6 percent.

In December, the unemployment rate for black workers was 14.9 percent; for whites 5.9 percent.

Nationally, employment rose in December and unemployment was little changed. The overall unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, and the rate for civilian workers was 6.9 percent. While little different from November, both rates were below those which had prevailed throughout most of 1985.

The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--rose by 320,000 in December to 99.1 million. Civilian employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--edged up by 240,000 to 108.2 million. Although both surveys showed substantial job growth in 1985, gains were less than were recorded in the prior 2 years.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

The December unemployment level (8.0 million) and the civilian worker unemployment rate (6.9 percent) were little different from their November levels, after seasonal adjustment. Both figures, however, were below those prevailing throughout most of 1985. Jobless rates for most worker groups were about unchanged in December, including those for adult men (5.9 percent), adult women (6.2 percent), teenagers (18.8 percent), whites (5.9 percent), blacks (14.9 percent), and Hispanics (10.4 percent). During the course of 1985, jobless rates for adult men, adult women, and whites declined, whereas rates for teenagers, blacks, and Hispanics have shown no improvement.

This release incorporates annual revisions in seasonally adjusted unemployment and other labor force series derived from the household survey. See information concerning the revisions.

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Both measures of average duration of unemployment have changed little in recent months. Median duration remained at 6.9 weeks in December, while mean duration was 15.4 weeks. These measures have declined from late 1984 levels. The number of job losers was about unchanged over the month but was somewhat below year-earlier levels.

Civilian Employment and the Labor Force (Household Survey Data)

Civilian employment edged up to a level of 108.2 million in December. Over the year, the number of jobholders rose by 2 million, with adult women accounting for 70 percent of the gain. The proportion of the civilian population with jobs--the employment-population ratio--reached a record high of 60.4 percent in December. Among occupational groups, the largest gains during the year occurred in managerial and professional, administrative support, and service jobs.

The civilian labor force, at 116.2 million in December, was little changed over the month. Over the year, the labor force rose by 1.8 million, with adult women accounting for an even larger share of the labor force growth (80 percent) than of employment.

Discouraged Workers (Household Survey Data)

At 1.2 million in the fourth quarter, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report that they want a job but are not looking for one because they believe their search would be futile--was about the same as the levels in the first 3 quarters of the year. Despite an over-the-year decline in the number of blacks reporting discouragement over job prospects, they continued to represent a disproportionate share of discouraged workers--about 1 in 3, or three times their share of the labor force.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

The number of employees on nonagricultural payrolls increased by 320,000 in December to 99.1 million, after seasonal adjustment. Job gains were widespread, as the BLS diffusion index registered 65 percent. The payroll total was 3.0 million above the year-earlier level.

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Continuing the pattern of recent growth, the bulk of the December employment expansion occurred in the service-producing sector, which increased by 260,000. The over-the-month expansion was once again paced by services, which rose by 115,000, with most of this gain taking place in business and health services. Elsewhere in the sector, there were modest increases in wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate. In retail trade, seasonal hirings in general merchandise stores were below the expected holiday levels, but there was growth in eating and drinking places, so that the overall job count in the industry was about unchanged in December, after seasonal adjustment.

In the goods-producing sector, employment increased by 60,000. In contrast to nearly continuous job losses between January and September, manufacturing employment edged up for the third month in a row. The December gain of 45,000 reflected small but widespread increases throughout both the durable and nondurable goods industries. Manufacturing job growth since September totaled 140,000. Construction employment was little changed for the second straight month, following several months of substantial growth. The number of construction jobs was up 290,000 over the year. Mining employment was about unchanged in December.

Weekly Hours (Establishment Survey Data)

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls edged up in December to 35.1 hours, after seasonal adjustment. Weekly hours in manufacturing rose 0.3 hour to 41.0 hours, a very high level, and factory overtime rose 0.2 hour to 3.6 hours.

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on nonagricultural payrolls rose 0.7 percent to 118.3 (1977=100), after seasonal adjustment. Reflecting advances in both weekly hours and the level of employment, the manufacturing index increased by 1.3 percent to 95.2. Since September, the manufacturing index has increased 2 percent.

Hourly and Weekly Earnings (Establishment Survey Data)

Average hourly earnings rose 0.9 percent in December, and weekly earnings were up 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prior to seasonal adjustment, average hourly earnings increased 5 cents to $8.73, while weekly earnings were up $6.11 to $309.04. Over the past year, hourly earnings have risen 27 cents and weekly earnings $8.71.

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The Hourly Earnings Index (Establishment Survey Data)

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 168.4 (1977=100) in December, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 0.8 percent from November. For the 12 months ended in December, the increase was 3.1 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in manufacturing overtime and inter-industry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI decreased 0.5 percent during the 12-month period ended in November.

Revisions of Seasonally Adjusted Household Survey Data

At the end of each calendar year, the BLS routinely revises the seasonally adjusted labor force series derived from the Current Population Survey (household survey) to incorporate the experience of that year. As a result of the recalculation of the seasonal factors, seasonally adjusted data for the most recent 5 years are subject to revision. (Establishment data are similarly revised concurrent with annual benchmark adjustments about mid-year.)

The revisions slightly altered the overall unemployment rate in January and the rate for civilian workers in August of 1985. The 1985 annual averages, 7.1 percent for all workers and 7.2 percent for civilian workers, are not affected by seasonal adjustment revisions. Table B presents revised seasonally adjusted data for major civilian labor force series for December 1984 through December 1985.

The January 1986 issue of Employment and Earnings will contain the new seasonal adjustment factors that will be used to calculate the civilian labor force and other major series for January-June of 1986, a description of the current seasonal adjustment methodology, and revised data for the most recent 13 months or calendar quarters for all regularly published tables containing seasonally adjusted household survey data. Revised monthly data for the entire 1981-85 revision period for 425 labor force series will be published in the February 1986 issue. Historical seasonally adjusted data in printed and diskette format may be purchased from the Bureau. (Contact Lewis B. Siegel, (202) 523-1821.)

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Improved Population Estimates for the Household Survey

Effective with data for January 1986, two technical changes will be introduced in the population estimates used as controls for the household survey. One will reflect an explicit estimate of the number of undocumented immigrants, largely Hispanic, since 1980. This change will be offset somewhat by an improved estimate of emigration from the United States for the same time period. The net effect of these adjustments will be to increase the working age population by roughly 300,000. For the population as a whole, this should have little effect on the data. Because the adjustment for the Hispanic-origin population will be much larger, BLS will revise the data to the extent possible back to 1980.

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NOTICIAS DE LA SEMANA, 1/13/86
EMPLOYMENT P. 6

HOUSEHOLD DATA

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, race, sex, age, and Hispanic origin	Not seasonally adjusted			Seasonally adjusted[1]					
	Dec. 1984	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1984	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1985	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985
WHITE									
Civilian noninstitutional population	152,734	154,203	154,327	152,734	153,819	153,938	154,082	154,203	154,327
Civilian labor force	98,598	100,473	100,090	99,044	99,817	100,179	100,533	100,478	100,533
Participation rate	64.6	65.2	64.9	64.8	64.9	65.1	65.2	65.2	65.1
Employed	92,650	94,769	94,385	92,871	93,684	94,055	94,369	94,507	94,585
Employment-population ratio[2]	60.7	61.5	61.2	60.8	60.9	61.1	61.2	61.3	61.3
Unemployed	5,948	5,704	5,704	6,173	6,133	6,124	6,164	5,971	5,948
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.7	5.7	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.9
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	52,479	53,077	52,902	52,673	52,877	52,983	53,105	53,125	53,097
Participation rate	78.5	78.5	78.1	78.8	78.4	78.5	78.6	78.5	78.4
Employed	49,550	50,459	50,169	49,795	50,050	50,207	50,339	50,380	50,408
Employment-population ratio[2]	74.1	74.6	74.1	74.5	74.2	74.4	74.5	74.5	74.4
Unemployed	2,929	2,618	2,733	2,878	2,827	2,776	2,766	2,745	2,689
Unemployment rate	5.6	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	39,593	40,915	40,789	39,467	40,254	40,403	40,549	40,538	40,659
Participation rate	53.6	54.8	54.6	53.4	54.0	54.2	54.3	54.3	54.4
Employed	37,569	38,832	38,795	37,262	37,964	38,096	38,317	38,366	38,475
Employment-population ratio[2]	50.9	52.0	51.9	50.4	51.0	51.1	51.3	51.4	51.5
Unemployed	2,024	2,083	1,994	2,205	2,290	2,307	2,232	2,172	2,184
Unemployment rate	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.4
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	6,527	6,481	6,399	6,904	6,686	6,793	6,879	6,815	6,777
Participation rate	54.4	54.6	53.9	57.6	56.4	57.3	58.0	57.4	57.1
Employed	5,532	5,478	5,422	5,814	5,670	5,752	5,713	5,761	5,702
Employment-population ratio[2]	46.1	46.2	45.7	48.5	47.8	48.5	48.2	48.6	48.1
Unemployed	995	1,004	977	1,090	1,016	1,041	1,166	1,054	1,075
Unemployment rate	15.2	15.5	15.3	15.8	15.2	15.3	17.0	15.5	15.9
Men	17.4	16.4	17.1	16.3	17.2	16.2	18.5	15.8	16.2
Women	12.9	14.5	13.3	15.2	13.0	14.4	15.3	15.1	15.5
BLACK									
Civilian noninstitutional population	19,513	19,790	19,819	19,513	19,700	19,728	19,761	19,790	19,819
Civilian labor force	12,183	12,423	12,445	12,263	12,289	12,378	12,412	12,457	12,522
Participation rate	62.4	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.4	62.7	62.8	62.9	63.2
Employed	10,424	10,564	10,681	10,410	10,560	10,500	10,566	10,518	10,657
Employment-population ratio[2]	53.4	53.4	53.9	53.3	53.6	53.2	53.5	53.1	53.8
Unemployed	1,759	1,859	1,764	1,853	1,729	1,878	1,846	1,939	1,865
Unemployment rate	14.4	15.0	14.2	15.1	14.1	15.2	14.9	15.6	14.9
Men, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	5,738	5,803	5,796	5,743	5,747	5,788	5,778	5,772	5,797
Participation rate	74.6	74.5	74.2	74.7	74.2	74.6	74.3	74.1	74.2
Employed	4,977	5,055	5,044	4,975	5,062	5,019	4,987	4,983	5,035
Employment-population ratio[2]	64.7	64.9	64.6	64.7	65.3	64.7	64.1	63.9	64.5
Unemployed	761	748	752	768	685	769	791	789	762
Unemployment rate	13.3	12.9	13.0	13.4	11.9	13.3	13.7	13.7	13.1
Women, 20 years and over									
Civilian labor force	5,672	5,805	5,835	5,674	5,696	5,724	5,727	5,810	5,835
Participation rate	58.5	58.9	59.2	58.6	58.1	58.3	58.3	59.0	59.2
Employed	4,999	5,033	5,169	4,939	4,951	4,951	5,032	5,017	5,102
Employment-population ratio[2]	51.6	51.1	52.4	51.0	50.5	50.5	51.2	50.9	51.7
Unemployed	673	773	667	735	745	773	695	793	733
Unemployment rate	11.9	13.3	11.4	13.0	13.1	13.5	12.1	13.6	12.6
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years									
Civilian labor force	773	815	814	846	846	866	907	875	890
Participation rate	36.2	37.9	37.9	39.6	39.3	40.2	42.2	40.7	41.5
Employed	448	477	469	496	547	530	547	518	520
Employment-population ratio[2]	21.0	22.2	21.8	23.2	25.4	24.6	25.4	24.1	24.2
Unemployed	325	338	345	350	299	336	360	357	370
Unemployment rate	42.0	41.5	42.4	41.4	35.3	38.8	39.7	40.8	41.6
Men	46.3	47.2	43.4	43.5	34.9	41.1	41.0	45.2	41.0
Women	37.2	35.3	41.2	38.9	35.9	36.1	38.2	36.0	42.3
HISPANIC ORIGIN									
Civilian noninstitutional population	11,332	11,660	11,690	11,332	11,573	11,601	11,630	11,660	11,690
Civilian labor force	7,384	7,527	7,427	7,467	7,529	7,584	7,589	7,519	7,506
Participation rate	65.2	64.6	63.5	65.9	65.1	65.4	65.3	64.5	64.2
Employed	6,646	6,726	6,682	6,693	6,748	6,794	6,745	6,719	6,725
Employment-population ratio[2]	58.6	57.7	57.2	59.1	58.3	58.6	58.0	57.6	57.5
Unemployed	739	801	745	774	781	790	844	800	781
Unemployment rate	10.0	10.6	10.0	10.4	10.4	10.4	11.1	10.6	10.4

[1] The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation; therefore, identical numbers appear in the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted columns.

[2] Civilian employment as a percent of the civilian noninstitutional population.

NOTE: Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Seasonally adjusted data have been revised based on the experience through December 1985.

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Week of January 13, 1986

LATINA ADDS HISPANIC PROGRAM
TO LIST OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

WASHINGTON -- For Adele Yapur Paskowski of the U.S. Department of Labor, taking on special assignments "is part of the job."

A special assistant to the Labor Department's comptroller, her day-to-day and special assignments deal with both routine and complex issues.

Since the Office of the Comptroller provides leadership and oversees operations in such areas as the budget, financial services, accounting, program review and policy, Paskowski works closely with many persons in key positions in the Labor Department to help assure smooth and efficient office operations.

Paskowski, a native of Lima, Peru, recently accepted another special assignment -- to be the Hispanic Employment Program Manager (HEPM) for the department's Office of Administration and Management Services (OASAM). About 25 percent of her time will be devoted to Hispanic program activities "to promote the employment and advancement of Hispanics in the department's work force."

Says Paskowski, "There are a great many Hispanics who are well educated and trained, but who don't know how to get into the federal government. I'm looking forward to helping achieve the program's objective of getting more Hispanics hired."

She sees herself taking a more active, visible role, such as meeting with various Hispanic groups in the District of Columbia metropolitan area and the department's employee group, HACE-DOL, to share and exchange information on job opportunities and related matters.

Paskowski is optimistic that more Hispanics will be hired under "Schedule B Authority," which permits the federal government to recruit and hire for entry-level positions under special situations.

Paskowski came to Boston, Mass., in 1965, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and arts. She moved to Washington, D.C. in 1969 and later received a Master of Arts degree in city and regional planning from Catholic University.

Paskowski joined the Labor Department in 1972. Before her assignment with the Comptroller's Office in 1978, she served with the department's Employment and Training Administration and the Employment Standards Administration.

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Week of January 13, 1986

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 authorizes the Secretary of Labor through OSHA "to set mandatory occupational safety and health standards applicable to businesses affecting interstate commerce" through public rulemaking, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

###

Occupational safety and health standards are designed to reduce on-the-job injuries; health standards limit workers' risk of developing occupational disease. Most OSHA standards are horizontal--they cover hazards which exist in a wide variety of industries, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has the authority to promulgate emergency temporary safety and health standards when it determines that workers are exposed to "grave danger" from toxic substances or physical agents or new hazards, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

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Every six months the Occupational Safety and Health Administration publishes in the Federal Register a semiannual agenda of the health and safety standards it is actively working on, including target dates for regulatory action, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

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1/20/86

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A NEWS SUMMARY
FOR HISPANICS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
20210

Week of January 20, 1986

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Week of January 20, 1986

CARRILLO NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT

WASHINGTON -- Manny Carrillo, a career civil servant, has been named special assistant to Dr. Fred E. Romero, who heads the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development in the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Carrillo's varied duties will encompass the areas of policy development as well as administrative matters. As special assistant, he will work closely with Romero, who provides overall leadership and guidance in policy formulation for the Labor Department's job training agency.

He will also serve as Romero's personal liaison with ETA officials and others involved with employment and training matters.

ETA administers the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which includes all training and employment aspects of programs such as the Job Corps, summer jobs for youths, seasonal and migrant farm labor programs, trade adjustment assistance for dislocated workers, as well as state employment security operations involving unemployment insurance and Job Service offices.

Carrillo came to the Labor Department in April 1985, serving as special assistant to then-Assistant Secretary of Labor Frank Casillas until Casillas resigned his presidential appointment in June 1985.

Before assuming his new position, Carrillo was on detail to the Combined Federal Campaign for the National Capital Area, which coordinates voluntary donations by Washington, D.C. area federal employees to nonprofit health and welfare agencies. The Loaned Executive Program was authorized in a Presidential memorandum and is recognized by the Office of Personnel Management as a career development experience for "promising and potential managers."

# # #

Week of January 20, 1986

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES--DECEMBER 1985

WASHINGTON -- The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent after seasonal adjustment from November to December, considerably less than in either October or November, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported. The slowdown was largely due to smaller increases in food and energy items. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.4 percent, about the same as in November; these two increases, however, were in contrast to the behavior of the index in most earlier months of 1985. After climbing sharply in each of the preceding 2 months, the index for crude goods edged down 0.2 percent in December.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.2 percent in December to 297.2 (1967=100). From December 1984 to December 1985, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 1.8 percent, about the same as the 1.7 percent rise registered in 1984. However, the major categories of finished goods behaved somewhat differently in 1985 than in the year before.

Consumer food prices, which had climbed 3.5 percent in 1984, fell during most of 1985 before turning up in the fourth quarter to close the year 0.3 percent higher than at the end of 1984. After decreasing 4.1 percent in 1984, the index for consumer energy goods was at virtually the same level in December 1985 as 12 months earlier. This index was quite volatile during 1985, however. The rise in the index for finished goods other than foods and energy accelerated modestly to 2.7 percent, following a 2.1 percent increase in 1984.

The index for intermediate materials, supplies, and components slipped 0.3 percent in 1985, after moving up 1.3 percent from December 1983 to December 1984. Following a 1.6 percent drop in 1984, the crude goods index fell 5.5 percent over the year, the largest annual decline since 1952.

# # #

Week of January 20, 1986

MORE THAN HALF OF HISPANIC FAMILIES HEADED BY WOMEN LIVE BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

WASHINGTON -- Some 810,000 Hispanic families in 1984 were maintained by women and, of these, more than half (54 percent) had incomes in 1983 below the U.S. poverty level, according to a U.S. Labor Department publication.

A fact sheet prepared by the department's Women's Bureau also notes that:

--In 1984, 23 percent of Hispanic families were headed by women, compared with 21.8 percent in 1980, and

--In 1983, Hispanic and black women maintaining families had lower median earnings, lower median ages, lower labor force participation rates, and higher unemployment rates than white women.

Also, families headed by Hispanic and black women were less likely than their white counterparts to have more than one wage earner.

These are some of the highlights presented in the fact sheet, "Women Who Maintain Families." The publication notes that between 1970 and 1984, the number of families maintained by women grew more than 84 percent. This growth is attributed by the publication largely to more marriages ending in divorce, and more women having children without marrying.

The number of children living with a divorced mother more than doubled between 1970 and 1982, while the number of children living with a never-married mother increased more than fourfold, according to the publication. In 1981, 1 in 5 babies was born to an unmarried woman.

Single copies of "Women Who Maintain Families" are free. To order, write the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Lasbor, Third Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. A self-addressed mailing label will expedite response.

# # #

Week of January 20, 1986

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) supports part-time jobs in community service for jobless, low-income persons who are at least 55 and have poor employment prospects. SCSEP projects are in all states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

# # #

Older workers can look to three nationwide programs for help in seeking job training and employment, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, Job Service offices and the Job Training Partnership Act, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

# # #

Older workers who participate in the Senior Community Employment Program work part-time in day care centers, conservation projects, schools, hospitals and fire prevention centers, among others. Participants in the program are jobless, low-income persons who are at least age 55, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

# # #

Older workers who participate in the Senior Community Service Employment Program receive annual physical examinations, personal and job-related counseling, job training if necessary, and in some cases, help in finding a regular unsubsidized job. Participants may work up to 1,300 hours a year, 20-25 hours a week, according to a U.S. Department of Labor fact sheet.

# # #

1/27/86

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Week of January 27, 1986

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Week of January 27, 1986

BILINGUAL SKILLS HELP LATINA
AID MORE OF NATION'S WAGE EARNERS

DENVER -- "I don't know which I learned first, English or Spanish, but I do know being bilingual is an asset, Anabel Sanchez says.

Since joining the Labor Departmeant in 1974, Sanchez has found that fluency in Spanish has helped her serve a greater number of wage earners, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers and other Spanish-speaking workers.

"It used to be that agricultural workers would avoid government representatives. But today's workers are more knowledgeable about their rights and are more willing to talk to us," Sanchez, a native of Albuquerque, N.M., says.

"Most undocumented workers still avoid us, perhaps because they don't know they, too, are protected by federal laws," she adds.

"Most don't want to file complaints. They are satisfied to work, get paid, and leave.

"I really feel good about helping protect workers, especially those with limited or no command of the English language," says Sanchez, who recalls that in school "we were put down for speaking Spanish."

For Sanchez, helping to protect workers includes coaching compliance officers and new employees on special federal minimum wage regulations, her area of expertise.

How did this former clerk-typist move up the ranks to become a compliance specialist on special minimum wages?

"Being the second oldest of 13 children, I learned early in life that I had to take charge," says Sanchez.

She's quick to point out that she's had good supervisory guidance. She also has special praise for her husband's "most supportive role" in her moves up the career ladder.

-more-

"The entire family is supportive of each other's endeavors," says Sanchez. Illustrative of this is how their enthusiastic interest motivated their 9-year-old daughter, Kolene, to become one of two girls who made the Little League team this summer, and how they encouraged their 14-year-old son Marcial in his desire to become expert in Spanish and learn more about his heritage.

Since 1977, Sanchez has helped enforce the section of the federal law which allows special minimum wages for certain categories of workers.

In this capacity, for the Rocky Mountain State region which covers Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, she reviews requests to allow employers to pay special minimum wages under certain conditions, including in sheltered workshops.

Sheltered workshops play a role in expanding job opportunities for handicapped individuals and give these individuals a chance to achieve a degree of self-worth because of the wages they earn. Most are paid the federal minimum wage of $3.35 an hour or more.

"As employers and others learn more about these regulations, they feel more comfortable and call the federal government about specific details," Sanchez adds.

Sanchez describes her job as one which provides great job satisfaction because it offers a chance to help people and to carry out the Labor Department's mission.

And she can do it in both English and Spanish.

# # #

Week of January 27, 1986

JOB READINESS WORKSHOPS DESIGNED
TO HELP HISPANIC WOMEN FIND EMPLOYMENT

KANSAS CITY -- Hispanic women experiencing problems in finding employment are being urged to attend a series of workshops sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau Regional Office and the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry.

Targeted primarily for the Hispanic community, workshops at Harvest America, 1400 Metropolitan Ave. Kansas City, Kan., will be held every Tuesday afternoon through March 18 from 1:15 to 3:15. If needed, transportation and child care services will be made available.

Rose Kemp, who heads the Women's Bureau regional office here, pointed out that the site of Harvest America, a nonprofit organization which offers a variety of services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers, was selected to assure greater outreach to the Hispanic community.

The series of "Job Readiness Workshops," Kemp added, will focus on specific activities to help women who are, or expect to be, looking for employment.

Workshops will help women to:

--identify their job skills, experience and abilities;
--improve communication skills during job interviews and on the job;
--become familar with goal-setting skills and how to use accomplishments as encouragement to face new challenges;
--explore traditional and nontraditional careers for women;
--identify basic job seeking techniques
--maintain good health through preventive health measures;
--explore grooming techniques which create a positive impression and strengthen self-confidence; and
--identify community resources for training and other needed services.

Kemp stated that the workshops at Harvest America are being conducted in English and Spanish, utilizing resources from the area's diverse Hispanic community, including Hispanic organizations and Labor Department staff members like Ascension Hernandez, with the Employment and Training Administration.

Bertha Dominguez, area director of the Harvest America field office, describes the workshops as "extremely beneficial and motivational" for participants.

-more-

Dominguez adds that the first workshop has demonstrated a need to help Latinos get a better command of the English language, noting that some participants had little or no knowledge of the English language.

While the workshops are being sponsored by the Women's Bureau, Kemp and Dominquez said they were pleased to learn that men are also attending the workshops.

To assure that workshops are accessible to workers on both sides of the Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas stateline, workshops are also being held at St. Benedict's Center, Kansas City, Kan., and at the Metropolitan Luthern Ministry, 3031 Holmes St., Kansas City, Mo.

For more information about the workshop, contact the Women's Bureau at 816-374-6108 or the Metropolitan Luthern Ministry at 816-931-0027.

# # #

Week of January 27, 1986

WOMAN NOMINATED AS ADMINISTRATOR
OF LABOR DEPARTMENT'S WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

WASHINGTON -- Labor Secretary Bill Brock hailed President Reagan's nomination of Paula V. Smith as administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department's Employment Standards Administration.

The division enforces the federal wage and hour laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, which sets minimum wage, overtime, child labor and recordkeeping standards.

Other responsibilities of the Wage and Hour Division include: the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, Public Contract Act, Service Contract Act, Davis-Bacon and related acts and wage garnishment provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

Smith, a native of St. Louis, has been director of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations since January 1981.

# # #

Week of January 27, 1986

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--DECEMBER 1985

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent before seasonal adjustment in December to a level of 327.4 (1967=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported. For the 12-month period ended in December, the CPI-U increased 3.8 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose 0.2 percent in December, prior to seasonal adjustment. The December 1985 CPI-W level of 323.4 (1967=100) was 3.6 percent higher than the index in December 1984.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)--Seasonally Adjusted Changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for All Urban Consumers rose 0.4 percent in December. This compares with a 0.6 percent increase in November and a 0.3 percent average monthly rate of advance for all of 1985. For the second consecutive month, substantial increases in food and energy prices were responsible for the larger-than-average monthly increase in the CPI. These components accounted for about one half of the overall December advance. Excluding the food and energy components, the CPI-U rose 0.3 percent in December, slightly less than in November.

For the 12-month period ended in December, the CPI-U advanced 3.8 percent, about the some as in each of the 3 preceding calendar years. Although the overall increases in the past 4 years have been nearly the same, the composition of each has been somewhat different. The energy, shelter, and food components showed sharp deceleration beginning in late 1981.

Throughout the 1982-85 period, however, the moderation became more broadly based with price increases for all other items slowing steadily. This continued slowing has occurred primarily in the goods sector, as prices in the service sector have remained around the 5 to 6 percent level since 1982. The rates for the groups during these periods are shown below.

Average annual percent changes

	Dec. 1977-Dec. 1981	12 months ended Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1985
All items	10.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.8
Food	9.1	3.1	2.6	3.8	2.7
Shelter	13.4	2.4	4.7	5.2	6.0
Energy	18.4	1.3	-.5	.2	1.8
All other items	8.2	6.1	5.0	4.4	3.7
Other commodities	7.3	5.5	5.0	3.1	2.2
Other services	9.4	7.3	4.9	6.0	5.4

-more-

The food and beverage component rose 0.8 percent in December after advancing 0.7 percent in November, the sharpest increases in this component since the first 2 months of 1984. Grocery store food prices increased 1.0 percent on the strength of advances in the indexes for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs and fresh fruits and vegetables. The index for fresh fruits and vegetables rose 7.0 percent in December and was 7.8 higher than in December 1984. Very large lettuce and tomato price increases were responsible for the December advance. Beef prices, which had declined in each of the first 8 months of 1985, have risen 9 percent in the last 4 months and are now slightly higher (0.6 percent) than at the end of 1984. Pork prices, which increased 2.8 percent in November, rose 0.8 percent in December and are now at virtually the same level as a year ago. Poultry prices advanced sharply for the second consecutive month --up 1.6 percent in December-- and are 3.0 percent higher than 12 months ago. Among other major grocery store food groups, cereal and bakery products rose 0.6 percent in December and 3.6 percent over the year. The indexes for processed fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other foods at home all declined in December. The other two components of the food and beverage index--restaurant meals and alcoholic beverages--each increased 0.3 percent, the same as in November. The 12-month advances in these components--3.8 and 5.5 percent, respectively--compare with a 2.1 percent increase in grocery store food prices.

The housing component rose 0.3 percent in December, after advancing 0.5 percent in November, reflecting smaller increases in the cost of shelter and household furnishings and operations. Within the shelter component, renters' costs rose 0.1 percent, homeowners' costs rose 0.4 percent, and maintenance and repair costs--which pertain to both renters and homeowners--increased 0.3 percent. The index for household furnishings and operations rose 0.1 percent in December, following a 0.3 percent increase in November. The index for fuels and other utilities advanced 0.4 percent in December, the same as in November. Fuel oil prices--up 2.0 percent in December--have increased 11.0 percent in the last 4 months of 1985 and are now 5.5 percent above their level at the end of 1984. Despite these advances, fuel oil prices in December were 8.0 percent below their peak level of April 1981. Charges for electricity rose 0.6 percent in December, after registering declines in each of the preceding 2 months,and are 2.7 percent higher than in December 1984. The index for natural gas registered its fifth consecutive monthly decline and has decreased 4.6 percent during 1985. Among other utilities, the cost of telephone services declined slightly in December, due to a 1.3 percent drop in charges for intrastate calls. During the past 12 months, the cost of telephone services has risen 4.7 percent with local charges advancing and interstate call charges declining.

The transportation component rose 0.5 percent in December, following an increase of 0.7 percent in November, largely as a result of a smaller but substantial increase in gasoline prices and a turnaround in the cost of automobile finance charges. Following the 1.0 percent increase in December, gasoline prices were 3.0 percent above their level at the end of 1984, but 11.4 percent below their peak level of March 1981. Automobile finance charges, which increased 5.4 percent in the two-month period ended in November, declined 0.8 percent in December and are now 8.3 percent lower than in December 1984. On the other hand, new and used car prices, which

-more-

were unchanged in November, rose 0.4 and 0.1 percent, respectively. During 1985, new car prices increased 3.5 percent, while used car prices declined 1.9 percent. Among other automobile expenses, insurance costs rose 1.1 percent in December and 12.0 percent during all of 1985. The index for public transportation was unchanged in December as a decline in airline fares offset increases in intercity bus and train fares and taxi fares. For the 12 months ended in December, public transportation costs rose 5.1 percent.

The medical care component rose 0.6 percent in December, following increases of 0.5 percent in each of the preceding 5 months. The index for medical care commodities-- prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and medical supplies--rose 0.3 percent. The index for medical care services rose 0.6 percent, with the cost of physicians' services and hospital rooms each up 0.7 percent. During 1985, the cost of physicians' services and hospital rooms advanced 6.9 and 4.8 percent, respectively. The over-the-year increase in hospital rooms was the smallest December-to-December rise since a 4.4 percent rise in 1964.

The index for apparel and upkeep declined 0.2 percent in December, following a 0.2 percent increase in November. Widespread sale prices, with larger than usual seasonal price reductions in women's and girls' clothing, were only partially offset by a 0.4 percent rise in charges for apparel services. During the past 12 months, prices for apparel commodities rose 2.4 percent, and charges for apparel services advanced 4.9 percent.

The index for entertainment declined 0.1 percent in December, following a 0.3 percent rise in November. Declines in all major entertainment commodity groups--reading materials, sporting goods and equipment, and toys, hobbies, and other entertainment commodities--more than offset a small increase in entertainment services.

The other goods and services component advanced 0.6 percent in December, after increasing 0.4 percent in November, largely as a result of a 0.9 percent increase in cigarette prices.

CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) -- Seasonally Adjusted Changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rose 0.4 percent in December, the same as in the CPI-U. (The rental equivalence approach to homeownership has been used in the CPI-W since January 1985. The methodology and samples of areas, items, outlets, and prices are identical in both the CPI-W and the CPI-U, and differences in monthly changes result only from different expenditure patterns and seasonal adjustment factors.)

# # #

Week of January 27, 1986

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

A record 19.5 million mothers, or 6 out of 10 women with children under 18 years old, were in the U.S. labor force in 1984. Ten years earlier, not quite 5 out of 10 mothers were employed outside the home, according to "Working Mothers and Their Children," a fact sheet issued by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

###

About 56 percent of the 58 million children under age 18 had mothers in the labor force in 1984; 48 percent of all children under age 6 (9.3 million) had working mothers, according to "Working Mothers and Their Children," a fact sheet issued by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

###

A record 6.2 million families with children were maintained by mothers in 1984, and they accounted for one-fifth of all families with children. In 1985 there were about half as many such families, and they constituted only 1 in 7 families with children, according to "Working Mothers and Their Children," a fact sheet issued by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

###

Almost half the children in two-parent families in 1984 had both an employed mother and father. Overall, approximately 1 child in 7 lived in a home where there was no employed parent, and income was accordingly low (a median of $6,782 in 1983), according to "Working Mothers and Their Children," a fact sheet issued by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

###